AVATAR

The Last Airbender

Show #305

BOOK THREE: Fire
CHAPTER FIVE: "The Beach"

Written by

Katie Mattila

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ACT ONE

EXT. FERRY BOAT - MORNING

Zuko, Azula, Mai and Ty Lee are out on the water on a modest royal ferry just off the coast of Ember Island, the Fire Nation equivalent of Nantucket. Ty Lee and Azula stand near the edge of the deck. Zuko and Mai sit down with their arms folded.

TY LEE
I'm so excited to spend the weekend on Ember Island. It's going to be great to hang out on the beach and do nothing.

ZUKO
Doing nothing is a waste of time! We're being sent away on a forced vacation. I feel like a child.

AZULA
Aw! Poor Prince Zuzu, feels like he's being banished all over again.

Zuko scowls.

AZULA (cont'd)
Lighten up. So Dad wants to meet with his advisors alone, without anyone else around. Don't take it personally.

Just then Ty Lee bounces over and interrupts them.

TY LEE
(excitedly)
Doesn't your family have a house on Ember Island?

AZULA
We used to come every summer when we were kids.

TY LEE
That must have been fun!

ZUKO
That was a long time ago.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DOCK - MORNING

The ferry approaches a private dock. Lo and Li, wearing large beach hats and matching sundresses, are standing at the dock WAVING to the kids. The kids disembark the ferry and approach Lo and Li. Ty Lee skips toward them. Azula walks assertively, and Zuko and Mai drag behind.

LO
(smiling)
Welcome to Ember Island, kids.

Azula dumps her heavy bags on Lo and Li. Lo and Li exchange a knowing glance. The kids look up the dock, past the beach at Lo and Li's beach house. It's small and humble with a tiny front deck and a hammock, which slowly swings in the gentle sea breeze -- the perfect tiny beach cottage.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - MORNING

The group cautiously enters the house following Lo and Li. Lo and Li lead the group up the CREAKY stairs to the bedrooms. As the tour progresses, the kids' facial expressions can't hide their disapproval of Lo and Li's crazy tacky decorating tastes.

ZUKO
(whispering to Mai)
It smells like old lady in here.

MAI
Gee. I wonder why.

Ty Lee points to a painting on the wall.

TY LEE
Who are these two beautiful women?

LO
Can't you tell?

Lo and Li stand side by side next to the painting and strike the same pose as the women in the painting. It's a grotesque and distorted version of the original.

LO (cont'd)
It's Li and me!

LI
It's Lo and me!

Lo and Li then lead them into one of the bedrooms.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Everyone looks around the room -- everyone but Ty Lee looks disappointed with the accommodations.

TY LEE
Oooh. I love the sea shell bedspread.

MAI
Are you serious? It looks like the beach threw up all over it.

Lo and Li speak in a soothing and philosophical tone.

LI
We know you're upset that you were forced to come here this weekend.

LO
But Ember Island is a magical place. Keep an open mind...Give it a chance...

LI
Give it a chance...

LO / LI
And it can even help you understand yourselves and each other.

Lo picks up a SMOOTH ROUND STONE from a nearby shelf.

LO
The beach has a special way --

Lo passes the stone to Li.

LI
-- of smoothing even the most ragged edges.

Lo and Li nod approvingly to each other. Suddenly energetic, Li CLAPS her hands together.

LI (cont'd)
Time to hit the beach!

Lo blows a WHISTLE. The kids quickly disperse.

EXT. SECLUDED HOT SPRINGS - MORNING

Aang and the gang are at a secluded location (surrounded by volcanic rocks, walls, etc.) that has hot springs, caves, and magnificent waterfalls. They've decided that it's safe to take a dip and enjoy the natural wonders.

25 25

TOPH
Aang, I know swimming is fun and all, but do you really think you should be exposing yourself like that? Cover up!

Aang pops out of the water in front of her.

25A 25A

AANG
What? I'm wearing trunks.

We reveal he is "decent."

25B 25B

TOPH
I know, it's your tattoos I'm worried about. What if someone sees you?

Katara points at the high walls surrounding the area.

KATARA
There are walls all around us. It's completely safe--

AANG
(yelling)
Whoa!

Aang, who is floating on his back with Momo resting on his belly, suddenly drifts into a current, and is rapidly pulled into a small CAVE OPENING in a rock.

INT. CAVE TUNNEL WATERSLIDE

Aang SCREAMS and WHOOPS with delight (and Momo SCREECHES and CLINGS for dear life) as they ride an exciting, all-natural water-slide through the insides of the cave structure!

EXT. RIVER - THAT MOMENT

We cut to a different exterior where two Fire Nation soldiers are standing near a river. In the background, we see a large rock structure with a huge waterfall coming out of it.

FIRE NATION SOLDIER #1
This has got to be the most boring job in the Fire Nation. Nothing ever happens--

Suddenly, Aang comes FLYING OUT of the waterfall!

AANG
(screaming)
Wwaaaahhhhhhhh!

Aang lands in the river below, still LAUGHING from his adventure -- he has no idea these soldiers have spotted him.

AANG (cont'd)
(to Momo, who looks terrified)
Let's go again!

The soldiers look at each other in disbelief.

FIRE NATION SOLDIER #1
The Avatar's alive! We better send a messenger hawk to the Firelord.

Fire Nation Soldier #1 produces a LONG BLACK RIBBON, which he attaches to the talon of a messenger hawk.

FIRE NATION SOLDIER #2
A black ribbon message! This is so exciting. Oooh.

EXT. BEACH - EARLY AFTERNOON

Zuko, Azula, Mai, and Ty Lee arrive at Ember Island's main beach. It's packed with local teenagers, who are swimming, sunbathing, and playing games. Zuko and Mai look miserable and are completely covered up in very unbeach-y dark clothing, while Azula and Ty Lee wear bikinis. The group follows Azula while she finds the perfect spot. Finally, they unpack and spread out their beach gear. TEENAGE BOY #1, a small scrawny boy, approaches Ty Lee and her enormous bag of beach gear.

TEENAGE BOY #1
Hey, need some help unpacking?

TY LEE
(smiling and batting her eyelashes)
Sure! Thanks.

The boy helps Ty Lee unpack her gear which includes all sorts of random strange objects like hula hoops, a tiara, floaty toys, etc. Last of all he unravels her beach mat so that she can sunbathe.

TY LEE (cont'd)
Could you scooch just a little bit more to the... ?

He obliges. Ty Lee's eyes are shaded by his shadow.

TY LEE (cont'd)
Perfect!

Teenage Boy #1 stands there in the blazing sun looking stupidly happy.

EXT. A FEW FEET AWAY - CONTINUOUS

Zuko heads down to the water and finds a SHELL. He returns to the blanket and presents it to Mai.

ZUKO
Here... this is for you.

MAI
Why would I want that?

ZUKO
I saw it and I thought it was pretty. Don't girls like stuff like this?

MAI
Maybe stupid girls.

ZUKO
Forget it!

Zuko angrily throws the shell towards the water. It lands with a THUD, just barely missing TEENAGE BOY #2's head. Teenage Boy #2 is a tall macho guy. He picks up the shell, then runs up to Ty Lee and gives it to her.

TY LEE
Wow. Thanks. This is soooo pretty.

TEENAGE BOY #2
Not as pretty as you are.

Teenage Boy #1 steps toward Teenage Boy #2 menacingly, no longer blocking the sun from Ty Lee's eyes.

TEENAGE BOY #1
That shell's not so great!

TY LEE
Shade! Shade!

Teenage Boy #1 quickly backs up, restoring Ty Lee's shade.

EXT. THE GROUP'S SPOT ON BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Zuko walks up to the blanket to present the ice cream to Mai.

ZUKO
I thought since it's so hot --
here.

As he hands the ice cream to Mai, it FALLS off the cone and PLOPS in her lap.

MAI
(sarcastically)
Thanks. This is really...
refreshing.

EXT. BEACH - AFTERNOON

Azula observes a group of teenagers playing an Avatar-style version of a beach game like shuttlecock or volleyball. Azula walks over to Mai and Zuko who are sitting on their blanket.

AZULA
Hey beach bums, we're playing next!

Azula grabs Mai and Zuko by their arms and PULLS them up.

AZULA (cont'd)
(yelling)
Ty Lee get over here now!

Ty Lee obediently and quickly gets up and CARTWHEELS over to the net, wowing her admirers. The group heads over to their side of the net. Zuko rips off his shirt. A group of girls in the crowd APPLAUD and GIGGLE at this. Azula gathers her team into a huddle.

AZULA (cont'd)
See that girl with the silly pigtails? When she runs toward the ball, there's just the slightest hesitation of her left foot. I'm willing to bet a childhood injury has weakened her.
(MORE)

AZULA (cont'd)
Keep serving the ball to her left, and we'll destroy her and the rest of her team. Dismissed!

The huddle breaks and we...

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH -- MUSICAL MONTAGE

Azula darts from one part of the court to the next, returning serves with ferocious drives -- always to the left of the "weakest link's" side. Zuko, inspired by her action, and not wanting to be upstaged, bolts into action. Ty Lee is characteristically acrobatic in her play style, walking on her hands and hitting the ball with her feet, etc. Meanwhile, Mai is characteristically blasé -- at one point she gets beaned with a ball as she just stands there with her arms folded. Within a short time the other team is completely out-matched.

END OF MONTAGE

As the other team reels in awe of the fierce defeat they've suffered, Azula relishes her team's victory.

AZULA
(grandiose, to other team)
Yes, we've defeated you for all times. You will never rise from the ashes of your shame and humiliation.
(to Mai, Ty Lee, and Zuko)
Well, that was fun!

As the kids walk away from the net they see a group of teenagers talking. CHAN, a popular rich kid (think James Spader in "Pretty in Pink), and RUON-JIAN, a teenager who acts "too cool for school" like a jaded rock star. Chan struts over to Ty Lee and flashes her a SLEAZY SMILE.

CHAN
I'm having a party tonight, you should come by.

TY LEE
Sure! I love parties.

Ruon-jian nods, indicating Mai.

RUON-JIAN
Your friend can come too.

AZULA
Uh...

Azula shoots a knowing look to Zuko, SURPRISED and OFFENDED, then strikes a somewhat threatening pose.

AZULA (cont'd)
... what about me and my brother? Aren't you going to invite us?

Chan looks Azula up and down. Azula realizes that he has no idea that she is the Fire Nation Princess -- her offended look becomes an INTRIGUED SMILE.

AZULA (cont'd)
You don't know who we are, do you?

CHAN
Don't you know who we are? We're Chan and Ruon-jian.

64A RUON-JIAN 64A
(nodding)
Yeah.

Just as Zuko is about to jump in to set him straight. Azula stops him by putting her finger up.

CHAN
But fine, you're invited. Just so you know, some of the most important teenagers in the Fire Nation are going to be at this party, so try and act normal.

AZULA
(disingenuous)
We'll do our best.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. LO AND LI'S BEACH HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

The group is seated around a large table in Lo and Li's dining room. The group passes dishes around the table. Zuko, who is sitting next to Azula, turns to face her.

ZUKO
Why didn't you tell those guys who we were?

AZULA
I guess I was intrigued. I am so used to people worshipping us...

TY LEE
They should!

AZULA
Yes, I know, and I love it. But for once I just wanted to see how people would treat us if they didn't know who we were.

LO
Like waves washing away the footprints on the sand, Ember Island gives everyone a clean slate...

LI
Ember Island reveals the true you.

Each of them contemplates this silently for a moment. Then Lo and Li break the silence, simultaneously clapping and then snapping: CLAP CLAP! SNAP SNAP!

LO / LI
To the party!

EXT. SKY - TWILIGHT

We follow a MESSENGER HAWK as it flies across the sky, trailing a long BLACK RIBBON behind it. Suddenly, a dark and terrifying larger bird rises up behind it -- a RAVEN-EAGLE. There is an exciting aerial chase and combat, which culminates when the raven-eagle takes down the hawk in a tangle of ribbon.

EXT. FIRE NATION COAST - MOMENTS LATER

As the hawk struggles in its tangled ribbon on the ground (it's okay, just tangled), a figure kneels down beside it.

It's COMBUSTION MAN, and we see that the raven-eagle is his trained companion. Combustion Man removes the scroll from the messenger hawk, and reads it.

EXT. CHAN'S HOUSE - PORCH - DUSK

Zuko, Azula, and the gang arrive at the party. Chan comes to the door looking a bit surprised.

CHAN
Um, you're a little early. No one's here yet.

AZULA
I heard you telling someone you'd be partying from dusk till dawn.
(beat)
It's dusk, so we're here.

CHAN
But that's just an expression --

AZULA
We are the perfect party guests. We arrive right on time because we are very punctual.

The kids all enter the house.

INT. CHAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chan leads the kids into the house.

CHAN
Alright, listen, my dad's an admiral -- and he has no idea I'm having this party. So don't mess anything up.

Azula looks at him, slightly enamored by his authoritative tone. She tries to hit on him in an awkward way.

AZULA
That's a sharp outfit Chan. Careful -- you could puncture the hull of an empire class Fire Nation battleship, leaving thousands to drown at sea.
(beat)
Because it's so sharp.

The group is silent and there is an awkward pause.

CHAN
Um. Thanks.

The kids see Ruon-jian across the room. He checks his hair in the mirror. When he sees the reflection of the kids in the mirror he quickly turns around and looks a little embarrassed. He flips his hair to the side.

RUON-JIAN
(yelling)
Hey! First ones here huh?

The kids shrug.

ZUKO
He thinks he's so great.

He looks at Mai waiting for a response.

ZUKO (cont'd)
Well, what do you think of him?

MAI
I don't have any opinion about him. I hardly know him.

ZUKO
You like him, don't you?

Mai rolls her eyes and SIGHS.

INT. CHAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

The party is now packed with teenagers. Ty Lee is surrounded by several different boys who are obviously competing for her attention.

TEENAGE BOY #2
So how do you know Ty Lee?

TEENAGE BOY #3
I met her at the beach today. She was pretty impressed by a sand pagoda that I made for her.

TEENAGE BOY #1
Well, I met her first.

Ty Lee's flirtatious behavior starts to backfire. Several boys surround her.

TY LEE
Look, it doesn't matter who I met first 'cause I like you all.

TEENAGE BOY #2
But which one of us do you <u>like</u>?

TEENAGE BOY #1 / TEENAGE BOY #3
Yeah. / Tell us.

The boys are confused and frustrated. As a group they start to close in and question her.

TY LEE
I don't know. I don't know!

In her panic Ty Lee sees no other way out -- she CHI BLOCKS all of them. They make appropriate "OOF!" sounds and collapse in a big pile on the floor.

CUT TO:

EXT. HALLWAY - OUTSIDE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Ty Lee steps over the pile of boys to get out of the room. From the hallway, Azula watches her and raises an eyebrow.

TY LEE
I'm glad you're here. Those boys won't leave me alone. I guess they all just like me too much!

AZULA
Come on, Ty Lee. You can't be this ignorant.

TY LEE
What are you talking about?

AZULA
Those boys only like you because you make it so easy for them. You're not a challenge. You're a tease. It's not like they actually care who you are.

Ty Lee breaks into SOBS. People are starting to look at them and wonder what's going on. Azula finally notices what an impact her words have had on Ty Lee.

AZULA (cont'd)
Okay, okay. Calm down. I didn't mean what I said.
(MORE)

AZULA (cont'd)
Look, maybe I just said it because I was a little...
(whispering)
Jealous.

Ty Lee is shocked and looks up at Azula.

TY LEE
What?! You, jealous of me? But, you're the most beautiful, smartest, perfect girl in the world.

AZULA
Well, you're right about all those things, but for some reason when I meet boys they act as if I'm going to do something horrible to them.

TY LEE
(laughing)
But you probably would do something horrible to them. I'm sure they're just intimidated by you.
(beat)
Okay, look, if you want a boy to like you, just look at him and smile a lot and laugh at everything he says, even if it's not funny.

AZULA
Well that sounds really shallow and stupid.
(beat)
Let's try it!

TY LEE
Okay.
(manly voice)
Hey there, sweet sugar-cakes, how ya likin' this party?

Azula BLURTS out a loud CRAZY LAUGH. Everyone in the room stops and stares at her.

INT. CHAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Mai and Zuko sit on a couch with their arms folded, while the party buzzes around them.

MAI
I'm bored.

ZUKO
I know.

MAI
I'm hungry.

ZUKO
So what?

MAI
So... find me some food.

ZUKO
Sure.

Zuko gets up and heads to the kitchen, passing by Azula as she enters the room. Azula approaches Chan who is talking to a group of party-goers. She interrupts their conversation.

AZULA
Chan, I'm ready for a tour of the house.

Chan smiles and the two of them head upstairs.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHAN'S HOUSE - BALCONY - NIGHT

Chan and Azula are standing on a balcony that looks out at the ocean.

CHAN
Is this your first time on Ember Island?

AZULA
No. I used to come here years ago.

CHAN
It's a great place. If you like sand.

Azula seizes the opportunity to laugh at his mild joke.

AZULA
Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha.

CHAN
(on a roll)
It's like, "Welcome to Sandyland!"

AZULA / CHAN
(LAUGHING TOGETHER)

Chan is flexing one of his arms while he is resting it on the ledge. Azula BATS her eyelashes and sweetly SMILES at Chan.

AZULA
Your arms look sooooo strong.

CHAN
Yeah. I know.

Chan leans in and gently KISSES Azula.

CHAN (cont'd)
You're pretty.

Azula immediately reverts back to her old self.

AZULA
Together you and I will be the strongest couple in the entire world. We will dominate the earth!

Chan realizes she's serious. He suddenly looks freaked out.

CHAN
Uh, I gotta go.

Angle off Azula's reaction.

CUT TO:

INT. CHAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Zuko walks into the kitchen and loads up a plate with various appetizers. As he walks away another PARTY-GOER accidentally bumps into him causing him to drop the plate.

ZUKO
(yelling)
Hey watch it! That food was for my cranky girlfriend!

CUT TO:

INT. CHAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

When Zuko returns to Mai she is talking to Ruon-jian. Zuko quickly walks over and ELBOWS him out of the way.

RUON-JIAN
What are you doing?

ZUKO
Stop talking to my girlfriend!

RUON-JIAN
Relax. It's just a party.

Zuko gets right up in Ruon-jian's face. The trio is suddenly surrounded by a crowd. Mai grabs Zuko by the arm and tries to pull him away from Ruon-jian. Zuko PUSHES Ruon-jian into a table causing a vase to fall to the floor and SHATTER.

MAI
Zuko! What is wrong with you?

ZUKO
(defensive)
What's wrong with me?

MAI
Your temper is out of control. You blow up over every little thing -- you're so impatient and hot-headed and angry!

ZUKO
Well, at least I feel something. As opposed to you -- you have no passion for anything! You're just a big BLAH!

We see that Mai is hurt by this remark.

MAI
It's over Zuko. We're done.

Chan suddenly comes running down the stairs, and sees the BROKEN VASE on the floor. Ruon-jian pushes his hair to the side and POINTS at Zuko.

CHAN
Who broke my nanna's vase?! That's it -- you're out of here!

Zuko narrows his eyes, and GLARES at Mai, who folds her arms and looks away from him.

ZUKO
I was just leaving.

Zuko walks out the door.

RUON-JIAN
Have fun by yourself, loser boy!

CHAN
Nice.

They high-five.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Zuko is wandering alone on the beach. It's a beautiful summer night.

EXT. FIRELORD'S BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

Zuko approaches an old decrepit house. The grass is overgrown and there is an abandoned boat out in front. We see SEPIA SLIDE FLASHBACKS that suggest that this was the Firelord's old summer house. (NOTE: Some of these flashbacks are the sepia-slides we saw in episodes 1.12 And 2.01 -- those memories of happier times came from here.)

The SLIDE (from 1.12) of Zuko and Azula running on the grassy dunes.

The SLIDE (from 1.12) of Zuko (from behind) with a hand on his shoulder, looking out over the water.

A few "new" slides include:

A SLIDE of Uncle on the beach with a 10 year old Lu Ten, who has a toddler version of Zuko on his shoulders.

A SLIDE of Ursa building a sandcastle with toddler versions of Zuko and Azula.

EXT. FIRELORD'S BEACH HOUSE - PORCH - NIGHT

Zuko tries to open the door, but it gets stuck. He BREAKS DOWN the door and enters the house.

INT. FIRELORD'S BEACH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Zuko wanders around inside. He looks at a dusty painting that is hanging on the wall. It is a FAMILY PORTRAIT of Ursa, Ozai, Azula, and Zuko -- in the portrait, Ozai rests a fatherly hand on Zuko's shoulder. Zuko has a flashback...

The SLIDE (from 1.12) of Zuko (from the front) with a hand on his shoulder. Now we widen to reveal the rest of the scene and see that it was his father with him, their beach house in the background.

Zuko finds a tiny PLASTER CAST on the mantle.

We see: A SLIDE of Ursa's hand gently pressing Zuko's tiny hand into plaster so that it makes a handprint.

EXT. KIDS' CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Katara, Aang, Sokka, and Toph are sleeping at their campsite. Toph wakes up abruptly.

TOPH
Guys -- you're all going to think I'm crazy, but it feels like a metal man is coming.

Seconds later, there is an EXPLOSION close to the kids. Before anyone can respond, Combustion Man, in a characteristic attack, sends a few SPARKS in the direction of the kids, culminating in an EXPLOSION. The kids scramble and try to fight back, but he is an enemy like they have never fought and they are in awe of his bending ability. It's CHAOS as the kids try to figure out what to do...

INT. FIRE LORD'S BEACH HOUSE - PORCH - NIGHT

Zuko sits in a PORCH SWING. He holds the plaster cast and seems absorbed in the tiny handprint -- he traces the outline of his tiny hand with his finger.

AZULA (O.S.)
I thought I'd find you here.

Zuko sees Azula has joined him on the porch. He moves over on the swing to make space for her and she sits down.

ZUKO
Those summers we spent here seem so long ago. So much has changed.

They SWING for a beat thinking about the past.

AZULA
Come down to the beach with me.
(beat)
Come on. This place is depressing.

Zuko gets up and he and Azula head down to the beach.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Azula walks down to the beach with Zuko. She spots Mai and Ty Lee sitting in the sand and joins them. Zuko and Mai briefly make eye contact. Mai takes the first step by speaking to Zuko first.

MAI
Hey.

Zuko can't resist holding a grudge.

ZUKO
Where's your new boyfriend?

Mai folds her arms and looks away. Azula rolls her eyes at Zuko as if to say, "What's wrong with you?" Zuko takes the hint. He holds out his hand and touches Mai's shoulder.

ZUKO (cont'd)
Are you cold?

Mai PULLS AWAY from his touch.

TY LEE
I'm freeeezing!

ZUKO
I'll make a fire.

Zuko looks up at the old beach house.

ZUKO (cont'd)
There's plenty of stuff to burn in there.

Zuko starts towards the house.

EXT. KIDS' CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Aang and the gang are trying their best to fight off Combustion Man. Aang dodges a blow which sends him flying down the cliff. Toph Earthbends a giant boulder at him, but Combustion Man lifts up his metal arm, and the boulder shatters in midair. Katara tries to help by Waterbending, but an explosion blows her out of her stance.

SOKKA
This is crazy! How can we beat a guy who blows things up with his mind?!

AANG
(yelling to group)
We <u>can't</u>. Jump on Appa. I'll try to distract him.

Aang leads Combustion Man on a chase -- it's the ultimate undodgeable attack versus the ultimate dodger. It's exciting and explosive, and Aang is just barely managing to evade each attack. Aang hides behind a rock. He runs full speed towards Combustion Man and jumps over his head. Combustion Man sends an explosion that just misses Aang.

Aang eventually manages to escape, and he joins the kids aboard Appa. As they fly away, Combustion Man blasts one more explosion at the kids that just barely misses them.

AANG (cont'd) *
I'm okay.

TOPH
Well, that was random.

KATARA
I don't think so. I get the feeling he knows who we are.

EXT. BEACH - LATER

We start on the BONFIRE Zuko has built using broken furniture and other stuff from the house. We widen as Zuko throws the FAMILY PORTRAIT into the bonfire.

TY LEE
What are you doing?

ZUKO
What does it look like I'm doing?

TY LEE
But it's a painting of your family.

ZUKO
You think I care?

TY LEE
I think you do.

ZUKO
You don't know me -- so why don't you just mind your own business!

TY LEE
(almost a whisper)
I know you.

ZUKO
No, you don't. You're stuck in little Ty Lee world where everything's great all the time.

MAI
Zuko, leave her alone.

ZUKO
(imitating Ty Lee)
I'm so pretty.
(MORE)

ZUKO
Look at me I can walk on my hands. Woooooooo!
(to Ty Lee)
Circus freak.

Ty Lee looks hurt. Azula LAUGHS at his impression.

TY LEE
Yes, I'm a circus freak. Go ahead and laugh all you want. You want to know why I joined the circus?

AZULA
(rolling eyes)
Here we go.

TY LEE
Do you have any idea what my home life was even like? Growing up with six sisters who look exactly like me?

Ty Lee stands up.

TY LEE (cont'd)
It was like I didn't even have my own name.

Ty Lee starts to cry.

TY LEE (cont'd)
I joined the circus because I was scared of spending the rest of my life as part of a matched set. At least I'm different now -- "CIRCUS FREAK" is a compliment!!!

Ty Lee collapses on the sand, totally exhausted by her tirade. Everyone is silent for a beat.

MAI
Guess that explains why you need ten boyfriends, too.

TY LEE
I'm sorry, what?

MAI
Attention issues. You couldn't get enough attention when you were a kid so you're trying to make up for it now.

TY LEE
Well, what's your excuse, Mai? You were an only child for fifteen years. But even with all that attention your aura is this dingy, pasty grey...

MAI
I don't believe in auras.

ZUKO
Yeah, you don't believe in anything.

MAI
(shrugging it off)
Oh, well I'm sorry I can't be as high-strung and crazy as the rest of you.

ZUKO
I'm sorry too. I wish you would be high-strung and crazy for once, instead of keeping all your feelings bottled up inside.
(re: Ty Lee)
She just called your aura dingy. Are you going to take that?!

MAI
What do you want from me? You want a teary confession about how hard my childhood was? Well, it wasn't. I was a rich only child who got anything I wanted.
(beat)
As long as I behaved.
(beat)
And sat still. And didn't speak unless spoken to.
(beat)
My mother said I had to keep out of trouble -- we had my dad's political career to think about.

AZULA
Well that's it, then. You had a controlling mother who had certain expectations and if you strayed from them, you were shut down. That's why you're afraid to care about anything and why you can't express yourself.

MAI
You want me to express myself? LEAVE ME ALONE!!!

Mai's outburst silences everyone.

ZUKO
I like it when you express yourself.

He reaches out to comfort her -- she JERKS away.

MAI
Don't touch me! I'm still mad at you.

Zuko stands up. He looks down at Mai.

ZUKO
My life hasn't been that easy either, Mai!

MAI
Whatever. That doesn't excuse the way you've been acting.

TY LEE
Calm down, you guys. This much negative energy is bad for your skin. You'll totally break out--

ZUKO
Bad skin?! Normal teenagers worry about bad skin. I don't have that luxury. My father decided to teach me a permanent lesson -- on my face. I was thirteen.

TY LEE
Sorry, Zuko. I--

ZUKO
For so long I thought that if my dad accepted me I'd be happy. I'm back home now. My dad talks to me.
(laughs)
He even thinks I'm a hero! Everything should be perfect, right? I should be happy now -- but I'm not. I'm angrier than ever, and I don't know why.

AZULA
There's a simple question you need to answer then. Who are you angry at?

ZUKO
No one. I'm just angry.

MAI
Yeah, who are you angry at, Zuko?

ZUKO
Everyone! I don't know.

AZULA
Is it Dad?

ZUKO
No, no--

TY LEE
Your uncle?

AZULA
Me?

ZUKO
No, no, no!

MAI
Then who? Who are you angry at?

AZULA
Answer the question Zuko.

TY LEE / MAI / AZULA
Talk to us./ Come on, answer the question./ Come on. Answer it.

ZUKO
I'M ANGRY AT MYSELF!

There is a long silence. Azula looks sincerely mystified.

AZULA
(quietly)
Why?

ZUKO
Because I'm confused. Because I'm not sure I know the difference between right and wrong anymore.

Azula smiles.

AZULA
You're pathetic.

Mai gets up, and moves over next to Zuko. She puts her arm around him.

MAI
I know one thing I care about. I care about you.

Azula starts CLAPPING.

AZULA
Well, those were wonderful performances everyone.

ZUKO
I guess you wouldn't understand, would you, Azula, because you're just so perfect.

AZULA
Well, yes. I guess you're right. I don't have sob stories like all of you. I could sit here and complain how our mom liked Zuko more than me, but I don't really care.

No one responds -- is Azula really confessing to something?

AZULA
My own mother...

She stares into the fire.

AZULA (cont'd)
...thought I was a monster.

There is a beat as everyone feels sympathetic towards Azula for a moment. Azula recovers suddenly.

AZULA (cont'd)
(brightly)
She was right of course, but it still hurt.

The kids all look into the fire. The fire FADES, and the last piece of burning wood GOES OUT. The kids sit pensively, lit softly by the remaining GLOWING EMBERS, listening to the WAVES. After a few moments, Ty Lee breaks the silence.

TY LEE
What Lo and Li said came true. The beach did help us learn about ourselves.

She picks up a SMOOTH STONE, like the one Lo and Li had.

TY LEE (cont'd)
I feel all smoothed. I'll always remember this.

AZULA
You know what would make this trip really memorable?

Everyone looks at her -- she smiles that AZULA SMILE.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. CHAN'S HOUSE

The kids return to the party. Chan answers the door.

AZULA
We've got some bad news, Chan.

ZUKO
Party's over!

The kids charge into the house and bust up the party, wreaking havoc the only way they know how. (NOTE: We do not see any Firebending or fire animated in this scene, only things being broken, knocked off tables, etc.) After a few moments of chaos, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

A **STILL PORTRAIT** of the four teenagers posing happily together on the beach as if for a vacation photo, as Chan's beach house burns in the background. After a few seconds, the still fades and becomes a **SEPIA SLIDE.**

END OF SHOW